BLUESTOCKINGS IN BOOKS

compiled by
raquel espasande

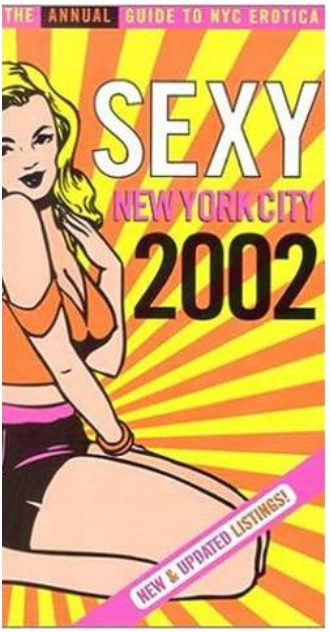
Cover illustration adapted from Julia Wertz's *Tenements, Towers & Trash: An Unconventional Illustrated History of New York City* (rainbow & color added)

This zine contains a few of my personal favorite mentions of Bluestockings Bookstore in books. For a more extensive selection including mentions of the bookstore in the news, on radio, on podcasts, and in academic papers, check out bluestockings.com/about-us/in-the-media. For example, here's Bluestockings in the New York Times, 1999 & 2024:

Edward Keating/The New York Times

Kathryn Welsh says her new store will be an outlet for young writers.

Raquel Espasande is one of several employees at the worker-owned Bluestockings Cooperative in New York City — which provides, among other free services, food to homeless people and English lessons to asylum seekers. Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times

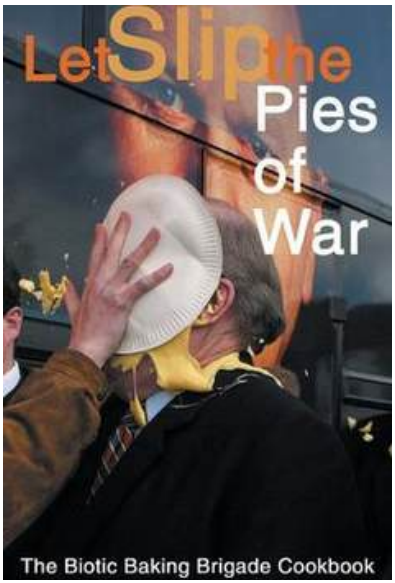


“The sexiest thing about Bluestockings is the girls. Other than Martha, the only paid Bluestockings employee, only volunteers or members of the Blue Stockings Collective work here. In Martha's words, ‘It’s a center for women to feel comfortable, and be themselves and meet other people.’ And meet other people, they do. The armchairs and coffee tables make that easy to do.

So do the wholesome treats. The coffee is made from free trade beans purchased from another women’s collective. These girls like to keep it in the family. They don't even charge extra for soymilk. So while it's not the sexiest environment, in the traditional sense, the comfort level itself sorta turns me on.

They have a decent sized erotica section where you’re likely to find anthologies of erotic short stories, as well as books on sexuality, gender, and longer erotic novels. Given it’s a store about women though, the sensual and sexual are present in the other genre sections as well.”

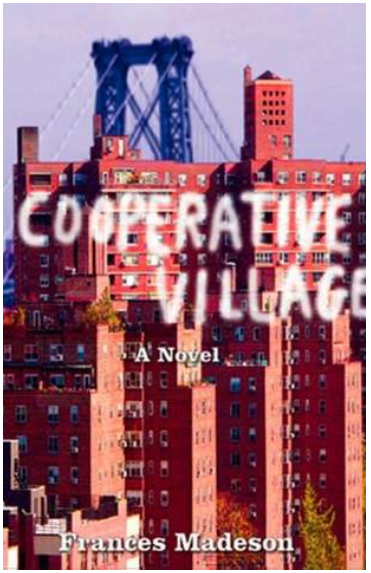
-- *Sexy New York City 2002: The Annual Guide to NYC Erotica*, December 2001.



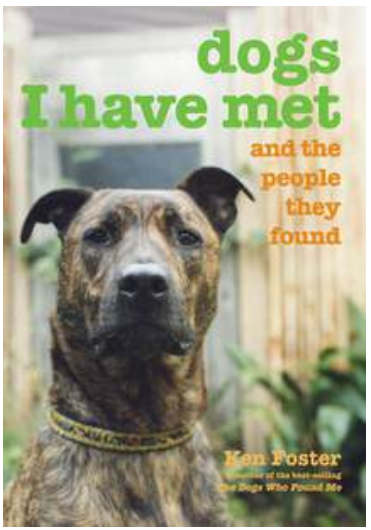
“Volunteers from the BBB landed a multi-layered cream and strawberry pie in the face of Luca Casarini just before he was to speak at the feminist bookstore, Bluestockings, in New York City’s Lower East Side on May 4, 2003. ... The doughy Pie-zano was frosted successfully on his way into the bookstore where a crowd had gather to hear a presentation on anti-authoritarianism and academia. ... This action was a gentle reminder that those who speak like anti-authoritarians but behave like vanguardists will receive their just desserts. No flake out! ... And here at Bluestockings, a feminist bookstore-not a place for macho leaders!”

-- *Pie Any Means Necessary: The Biotic Baking Brigade* by Agent Apple, April 2004.

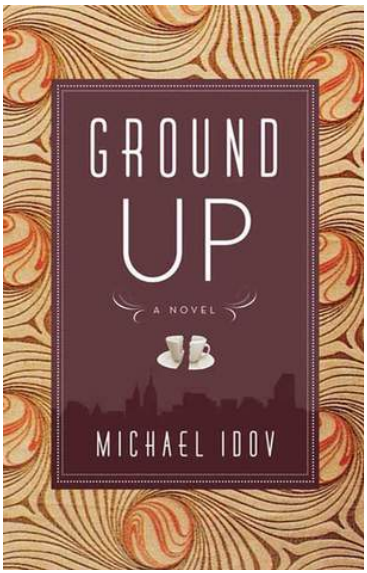
[Images found online from NYC Indymedia]



“I don't usually like to shop at Bluestockings because it's always so stuffy in there... So instead of wasting precious minutes browsing, I asked the fresh-faced radical woman behind the counter where I could find Henry David Thoreau. ... ‘We don't stock books by dead old white guys.’ ... ‘I see you have a lot of books by Noam Chomsky.’ ‘Yes, that’s true.’ ‘Dr. Chomsky’s 78 years old.’ ‘So?’ ‘He’s already past life expectancy. With a policy like that, you could get suddenly stuck with a lot of inventory.’”
-- *Cooperative Village* by Frances Madeson, May 2007.



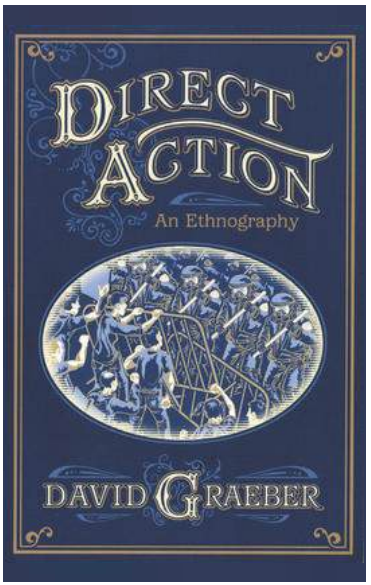
“A group of vegans had invited me to New York ... There would be a reading at Blue Stockings bookstore, followed by a Q and A, followed by a party with vegan wine and vegan cake and hosted at a vegan shoe store called Moo Shoes. ... I was worried about what would happen when they found out that I wasn’t even a vegetarian-and still occasionally wore leather shoes.”
-- *Dogs I Have Met* by Ken Foster, September 2007.



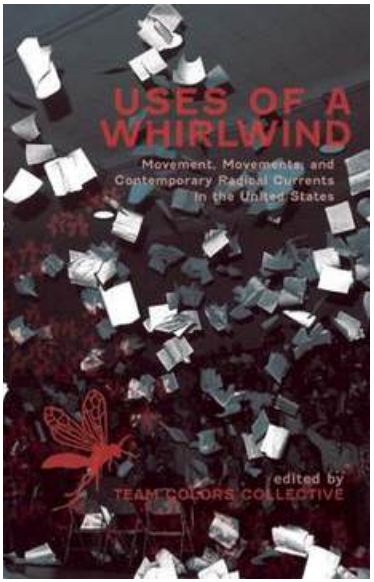
[Context: This book is the semi-autobiographical tale of a married couple who open a coffeehouse named Kolschitzky's, only to have a cheaper, chain coffeeshop open across the street.]

"At Bluestockings, an ancient activist bookshop on Allen, Nina had originally met a receptive audience: things had been so slow there lately that a combination of burning eyes and a xeroxed handout must have looked nostalgically irresistible. She lost the crowd, however, once one of the clerks offered to broaden the fight to include 'all yuppie gentrifiers, like that Kosheensky joint' and Nina went red in the face. It was left to me to regain a measure of the Bluestockings' trust by telling them that Kolschitzky was the name of an obscure anarchist."
-- *Ground Up* by Michael Idov, July 2009.

A short article about the real coffeeshop (named Cafe Trotsky) behind the book is at slate.com/id/2132576/.
"Bitter Brew: I opened a charming neighborhood coffee shop. Then it destroyed my life" by Michael Idov, Slate, December 2005.

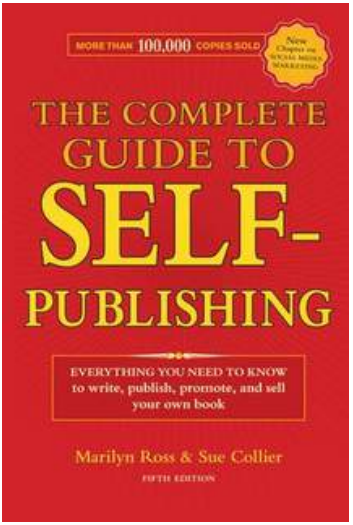


“[T]he New York chapter of Food Not Bombs ... would dumpster-dive food-mostly fresh food, often still in plastic or wrappers that had been thrown away by large institutions-and produce vegetarian meals that they would then distribute free back in Tompkins Square park. There were a series of other friendly institutions as well: Bluestockings Womyn’s Bookstore on Allen Street, the War Resisters League on Sullivan and Lafayette-a pacifist center which had existed since the 1920s and had a whole building of its own (the ‘Peace Pentagon,’ it was sometimes called)-the Sixth Street community center, radical theater spaces, St. Mark’s Church (where a squatter was one of the priests). [T]he key institutions, the ones that activists knew they could always rely on, were all, to some degree, tenuous. Like the squats, they had been won by struggle... and all were in constant danger of being taken away. Almost every one of them seem surrounded by a sense of desperate drama; if they were dependable in the sense of being clearly friendly to anarchists, they were not dependable in the sense that one could be sure they would still be there in six months or a year.”
-- *Direct Action* by David Graeber, September 2009.

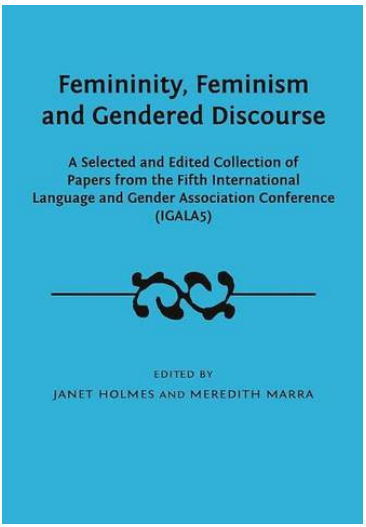

USES OF A WHIRLWIND
Movement, Movements, and Contemporary Radical Currents in the United States
edited by
TEAM COLORS COLLECTIVE

"[Bluestockings co-owner and collective member Malav Kanuga] ... Here I present some ideas about these conditions as they manifest in one struggle to organize an autonomous space in the heart of a capitalist city. I write from the perspective of my participation in a small workers' collective that daily organizes Bluestockings, a bookstore, cafe, and event space on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. We collaborate weekly with nearly seventy-five volunteers and interact annually with tens of thousands of people that come through our space. I explore the tension between two forces that propel us: the need to end capitalist work and the wage-unwaged relation that constitutes capital's dividing powers, and the desire for a type of 'free activity' that self-organizes nomadically, recoding and decoding social cooperation in a manner that simultaneously reorganizes the work relation as it flees it."
-- *Uses of a Whirlwind* by edited by Team Colors Collective, August 2010.

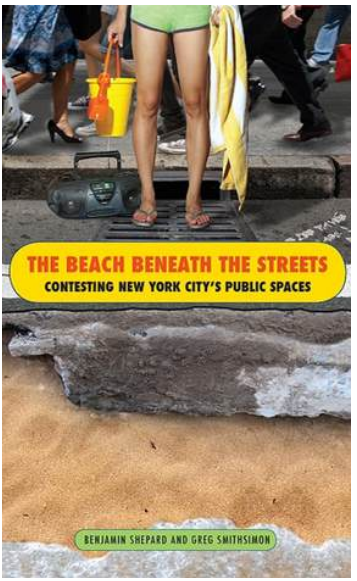
More in "A History Made of Glass" by Malav Kanuga at inthemiddleofthewhirlwind.wordpress.com/a-history-made-of-glass


MORE THAN 100,000 COPIES SOLD
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO
SELF-PUBLISHING
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW to write, publish, promote, and sell your own book
Marilyn Ross & Sue Collier
FIFTH EDITION

"Linda Watanabe McFerrin, a veteran novelist... has conjured up a unique author tour. She bought a thirty-day unlimited Amtrak train pass and set out on a month-long Book Passage by Rail tour. ... The tour started at Bluestockings Women's Bookstore in New York City. Then she worked her way across the country"
-- *The Complete Guide to Self-Publishing* edited by Marilyn Ross and Sue Collier, August 2010.

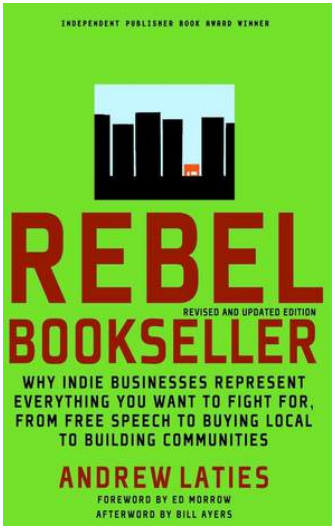

Femininity, Feminism and Gendered Discourse
A Selected and Edited Collection of Papers from the Fifth International Language and Gender Association Conference (IGALA5)
EDITED BY
JANET HOLMES AND MEREDITH MARRA

["I]n the Bluestockings Feminist Bookstore in New York, the two women booksellers treated my query as a kind of puzzle to be solved. 'Rhonda,' the woman I asked shouted across the store to her colleague, 'Do we have any lesbian humor?' 'Lesbian humor?' Rhonda hollered back, 'Gee, Carol, I dunno. What would that be?' Much back and forth loud banter across the store ensued, and in the end, Rhonda and Carol concluded that they were all out of lesbian humor"
-- *Femininity, Feminism and Gendered Discourse* edited by Janet Holmes and Meredith Marra, October 2010.



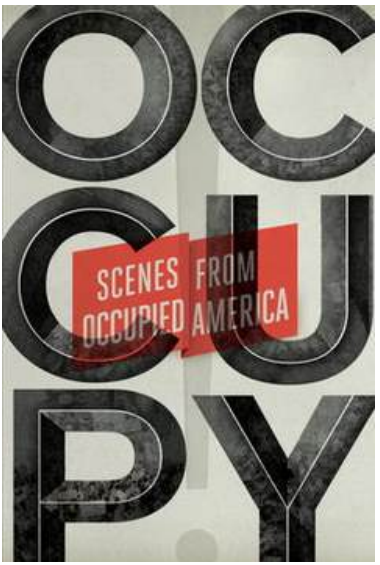
“The writer from the Voice was on hand to watch the whole scene. She wrote, ‘The driver snatched the horn and broke it, and the angry clown struck him in the face. The other clowns were horrified.’ ‘We’re supposed to be peaceful gnome clowns and keep our sense of humor,’ groaned Monica Hunken, who had worked with New York's Absurd Response to an Absurd War as well as the Clandestine Rebel Clown Army and the Church of Stop Shopping, with her face fully painted and a traffic cone perched atop her head. ‘That’s totally antithetical to what this ride is all about. Next time we’re definitely going to have rules for bike clowns and maybe broadcast them from our sound truck before we leave.” Hunken's reference to “peaceful gnomes” was inspired from her reading of L.M. Bogad’s (2005) Electoral Guerrila Theatre, which had been published the previous fall. Many of the clowns attended Bogad’s book release party and reading at Bluestockings Bookstore.”

-- *The Beach Beneath the Streets: Contesting New York City’s Public Spaces* by Benjamin Heim Shepard and Gregory Smithsimon, June 2011.

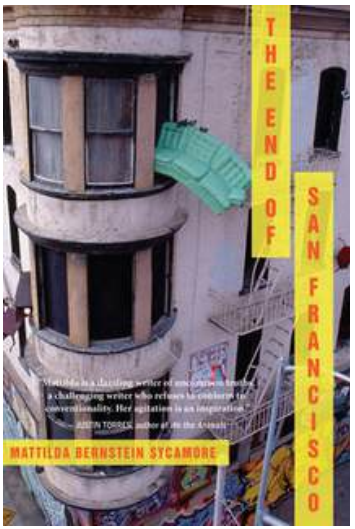

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARD WINNER
REBEL
REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION
BOOKSELLER
WHY INDIE BUSINESSES REPRESENT EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO FIGHT FOR, FROM FREE SPEECH TO BUYING LOCAL TO BUILDING COMMUNITIES
ANDREW LATIES
FOREWORD BY ED MORROW
AFTERWORD BY BILL AYERS

"Whenever troublers of sleep like Seth Tobocman need to rally people to a cause, Bluestockings is the vibrant, well-trafficked space in Manhattan that welcomes them, stands for their right to congregate and imagine and act. Five worker-owners and dozens of volunteers pool their efforts to keep lights bright, coffee flowing, bookcases and front tables filled with provocations: voices of oppressed peoples, books advancing alternative interpretations, tracts filled with dangerous propositions. Here, we construct the world of our desires."
-- *Rebel Bookseller* by Andrew Laties, July 2011.

"Dad waited for me inside Bluestockings, an activist café and bookstore he would never have frequented when he was straight. A contract-law attorney, he'd always been the epitome of Brooks Brothers couture. Now he was gay, he dressed like a frickin' rich, hippie weirdo with tie-dyed T-shirts and hemp pants... I detected a strong whiff of patchouli incense when he threw his arms around me."
-- *Burnt Island* by A.J. Llewellyn, January 2012.



“October 14 Sarah L: ‘Friday night was all about the packed discussion at Bluestockings, hosted by the young magazine *Jacobin*, unofficially a contentious faceoff between anarchists and socialists about the direction of the emerging movement. The moderator, *Jacobin* editor-at-large Seth Ackerman, valiantly held a sort of peace between panelists who rapidly shifted in demeanor from comrades to antagonists. The anarchists, *New York Times* freelance reporter Natasha Lennard and writer/editor Malcolm Harris of *The New Inquiry* and *Jacobin*, talked about the liberated subjectivities emerging in the chaotic now. The other side of the table-economics journalist Doug Henwood, Chris Maisano, editor of Democratic-Socialist paper *The Activist,* and political theorist Jodi Dean-argued variations on the need for greater organization, for achievable political goals based in communalism, and for some sort of engagement with the state. The debate was lively, rife with condescension in both directions, and did feel, comfortingly, like a throwback to a time when politics mattered.”
-- *Occupy!* edited by Carla Blumenkranz, Keith Gessen, Mark Greif, Sarah Leonard, Sarah Resnick, Nikil Saval, Eli Schmitt and Astra Taylor, December 2011.

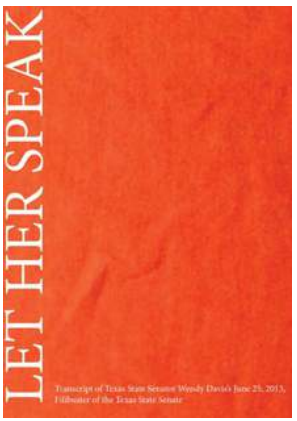


“[W]e chained ourselves across Broadway in rush-hour traffic ... [T]he cops had to bring out electric saws to get the locks off... [W]e were lying in the freezing cold February streets with reporters bending over to ask what a bunch of queers, most of us white, could possibly be doing blocking traffic. That’s not what they said exactly, but it's what they meant. I said we’re here because unarmed people of color are being gunned down on the streets of New York, and it’s a state of emergency.
It was a state of emergency. With direct action, it’s always a state of emergency and that’s good because you’re on alert, ready to intervene. And it’s hard because you can never do enough. It’s why I got involved in Queeruption, which started with four people in a car on the way back from a queer writer's conference: Scott, Kathryn, Jesse and me. And Taylor in Boston. All of the others had attended anarchist gatherings where they felt inspired by the politics but marginalized as queers, and they wanted to organize a queer anarchist convergence. ... We started holding weekly meetings at Bluestockings, the feminist bookstore Kathryn had founded.”
-- *The End of San Francisco* by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, January 2012.

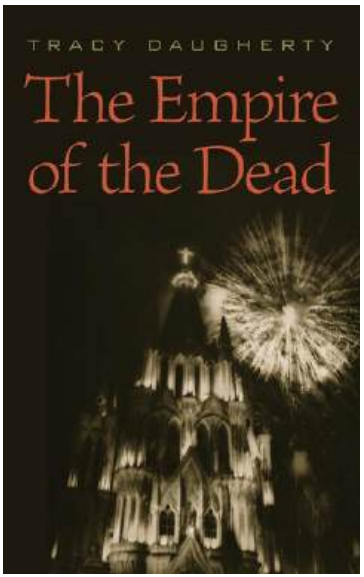
“Opposition can also be expressed through the creation of ‘autonomous’ spaces and projects [usually] feminist/pro-feminist, anti-authoritarian, and often explicitly anarchist. They tend to be organized through small affinity groups with organizational forms that are non-hierarchical. The activities are wide-ranging from cultural to social, such as self-managed farms, alternative bookstores, free schools, and show spaces. In addition, they engage in protests using creative tactics when mobilizing for these activities. These groups are often small but represent ‘the hope for fundamental social change that lies in their ability to show by example that self-governance and self-organization are not just desirable but also enjoyable and achievable in the present moment.’ Bluestockings, a workers cooperative bookstore in New York City, shares this orientation. It sees its project as testing the hypothesis that ‘autonomous space facilitates the production of new social relations in the struggle against capitalism.’ ... [T]hese spaces have become points of resistance and mobilization for protest.”

-- *Activism and Social Change: Lessons for Community Organizing* by Eric Shragge, May 2013.

"I first heard about [Reclaim The Streets] when Katherine [Welsh], the founder of the Lower East Side Bluestockings Bookstore who had worked with the queer direct action groups SexPanic! and Fed Up Queers, gave me a flyer promoting the first RTS action during an anti-queer-violence rally in Brooklyn. Attacks on communities of difference had become a common byproduct of the cultural apparatus known as the Quality of Life Campaign. [A]ctivists across the city pushed back."
-- *Play, Creativity, & Social Movements: If I Can't Dance, Its Not My Revolution* by Benjamin Shepard, May 2013.



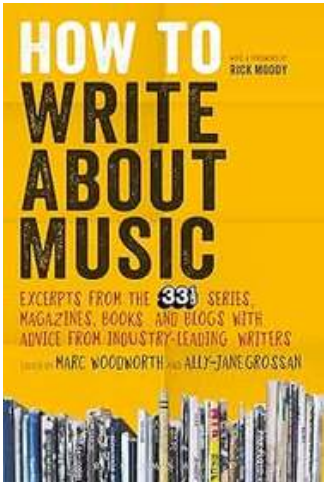
"To celebrate and extend Davis's act of protest, readings of the entire transcript were held in Denver ... with parallel readings at Innisfree Books in Boulder, Colorado, in Durham, NC, at Spider House Cafe in Austin, Texas, and at Bluestockings Bookstore in New York City. Participation in these readings was open to the public, with each reader being given about 6 pages of the printed transcript to read."
-- *Let Her Speak: Transcript of Texas State Senator Wendy Davis's June 25, 2013, Filibuster of the Texas State Senate*, September 2013.



“He made his way up Allen Street. Newsstand headlines: ‘U.S. Senate Tries to Force Vote on Pulling Troops Out of Iraq-Fails to Win Republican Support,’ ‘Mayor's Traffic Plan Crashes.’ Next to Bluestockings Bookstore (a poetry reading was in progress, hosted by ‘the hardest-working guinea butch dyke poet on the Lower East Side,’ the emcee said), Bern set the cage on the sidewalk and rested. ... What in Christ’s name had possessed him to purchase this bird?” -- *The Empire of the Dead* by Tracy Daugherty, January 2015.

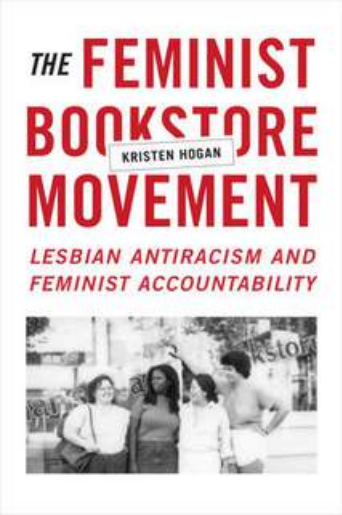
$PREAD
THE BEST OF THE MAGAZINE THAT ILLUMINATED THE SEX INDUSTRY AND STARTED A MEDIA REVOLUTION
Edited by
RACHEL AIMEE, ELIYANNA KAISER, AND AUDACIA RAY

“May 2009 - *In Our Image*, a documentary about the making of $pread, premieres at Bluestockings Bookstore in New York.
-- *$pread: The Best of the Magazine that Illuminated the Sex Industry and Started a Media Revolution* by Rachel Aimee, Eliyanna Kaiser, and Audacia Ray, March 2015.


HOW TO
WRITE
ABOUT
MUSIC
EXCERPTS FROM THE 33⅓ SERIES, MAGAZINES, BOOKS, AND BLOGS WITH ADVICE FROM INDUSTRY-LEADING WRITERS
MARC WOODWORTH AND ALLY-JANE GROSSAN

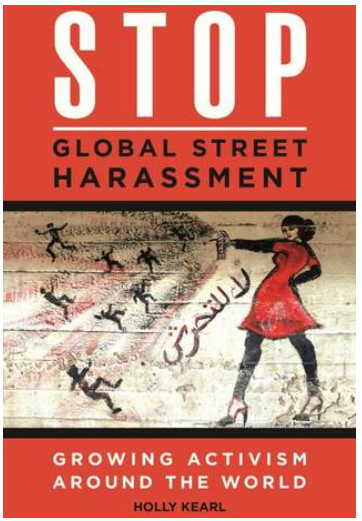
[Photo of Pussy Riot in Bluestockings by Raya Jalabi/Guardian]

"On Monday night, [Pussy Riot is] at Bluestockings, a radical bookstore on the Lower East Side, for an unannounced Q&A. ... The girls have agreed to appear before us without their masks ... but before they speak, the moderator makes us raise our hands and take an oath that we won't record, take pictures, or tweet about the event for at least two days. The reason for all the secrecy and nervousness soon becomes clear. Puck tells the crowd that, in the past month, Russian legislators have passed a series of laws informally known as 'Pussy Riot laws'-basically because they preemptively make any behavior the group might engage in illegal. It's now a crime to cover your face in Russia, [offend] the Russian Orthodox Church, [or] for a Russian citizen to speak ill of the government to the foreign press. Which is what Puck and Headlight are doing at that very moment."
-- *How to Write About Music* edited by Marc Woodworth & Ally-Jane Grossan, February 2015.

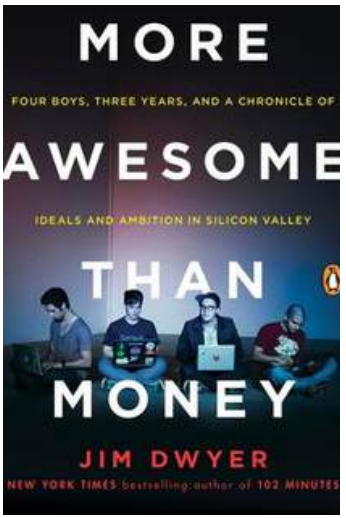


“Sara Zia Ebrahimi and Naomi Skoglund’s short film *On the Shelf* ... visually interweaves the aesthetic, political, and affective powers of feminist books, together on a shelf, with a young Black queer person’s search for the perfect lover. ... The film locates several scenes in feminist sites in New York, including Bluestockings, a feminist bookstore ... After a first date ends in failure when the book lover discovers their date only has a few books (on a shelf on top of the television), the book lover gives their friend who works at Bluestockings a list of books with the request ‘If any girl comes in and picks any one of those books up off the shelf, call me immediately on my cell.’ Soon after this agreement, the bookstore friend watches a woman come into the bookstore and pick up Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath Eyes Memory*. She checks the list and calls the book lover, who arrives just as ‘the dream date’ gets to the front desk with bell hooks’s *All About Love*. The book lover flirts earnestly with the dream date: ‘You know, I’d really love to hear your opinion about the book.’ The connection works, and the dream date replies, ‘Maybe I’ll even read you my favorite part.’ ... The book becomes the love making in a later scene showing the two talking over coffee and the

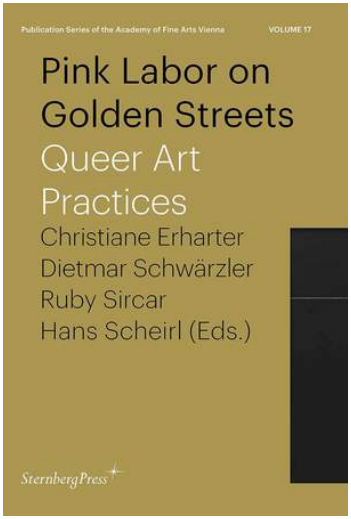
dream date reading aloud from hooks's book. The film follows the two lovers to the public library, at home making a protest sign reading 'war is racist!,' and walking to the dream date's apartment. ... The closing sequence shows yet another series of books, stack upon stack, inviting pleasure in looking at books in volume as well as emphasizing the importance of each as part of a context for each other and for our relationships.
[T]he feminist bookstore is the place where the connection happens, where love becomes legible."
-- *The Feminist Bookstore Movement: Lesbian Antiracism & Feminist Accountability* by Kristen Hogan, March 2016.



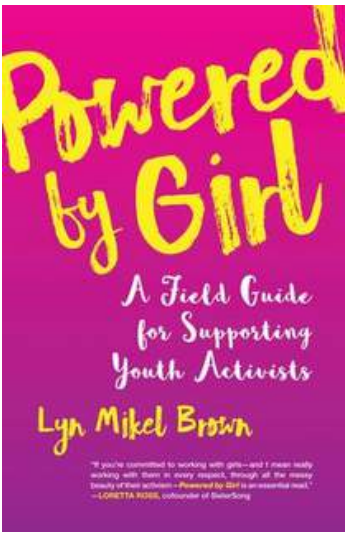
"Out of a desire to mobilize women on women's issues, community activists Allison Guttu & Fran Luck organized a consciousness-raising session in [NYC] on International Women's Day in 1998 to allow women to discuss problems they faced that men did not. Around 20 women of all races & ages attended, and street harrassment came up several times. After, ... they gathered once per month at Bluestockings Bookstore, and street harassment came up time & time again in their discussions."
-- *Stop Global Street Harassment: Growing Activism Around the World* by Holly Kearl, August 2015.



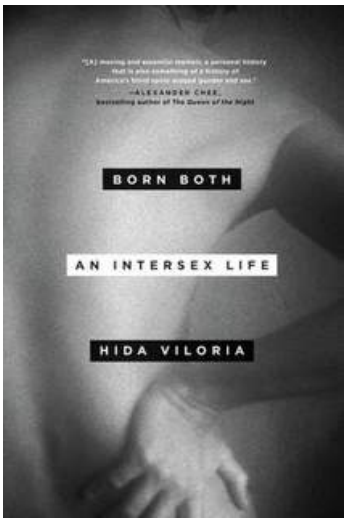
"[H]e'd spiel about limits to freedom on the Internet, & any other social causes that had caught his interest. He liked to hang at Bluestockings bookstore on the Lower East Side, a cafe, center for activists, and seller of books that looked at the world through a radical lens, or nearby at ABC No Rio, the collective run by artists & activists."
-- *More Awesome Than Money* by Jim Dwyer, November 2015.



"I was part of a scene that centered around two distinctly DIY & feminist spaces—Bluestockings bookstore and queer group house/event space DUMBA. My favorite drag act from that time and those places was the Backdoor Boys, a group of dykes who choreographed, danced, and lip-synched, bringing out the homosexuality in boy band pop songs. To me, drag has meant invention, disguise, and play. A place for flipping gender inside and out, for pushing and pulling, crushing, composing, and teasing our expectations with all this performance."
-- *Pink Labor on Golden Streets* edited by Christiane Erharter, Dietma Schwarzler, & Rub Sircar February 2015.



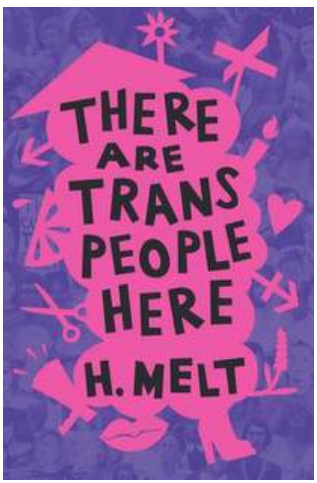
"[O]ne girl shared a story about how she had hailed a cab to go to school and the driver harassed her, asking inappropriate questions the entire time she was in the cab. She wound up sharing that story ... at a local feminist bookstore in New York City for a street-harassment event."
-- *Powered by Girl* by Lyn Mikel Brown, September 2016.



"'Fuck it!' I think to myself. 'Even if most folks aren't identifying as proud herms yet, I'm going to. I'm going to tell the world that we're a type of people, not just medical conditions.' I get on my computer and write an e-mail to the folks at Bluestockings. I hear back from them within hours, telling me they're very excited about my presentation, 'Hermaphrodites Exist: Intersex, the I in LGBTI.' A month later, I fly to New York, Claudia and I publish 'Brief Guidelines for Intersex Allies' right on time for Intersex Awareness Day 2012, and we rock our NYU and Bluestockings presentations."
-- *Born Both* by Hida Viloria, March 2017.

"She even loved this faintly churchy phrase, *late capitalism,* which she'd picked up from a clerk in the Bluestockings bookstore on Allen Street and repeated any chance she got. ... In the cabinet above the range hood, she recalled, were a few old bottles. [N]ow she took one. Or collectivized it, as the guy at Bluestockings might have said." -- *Granta 139: Best of Young American Novelists 3* by Sigrid Rausing, April 2017.

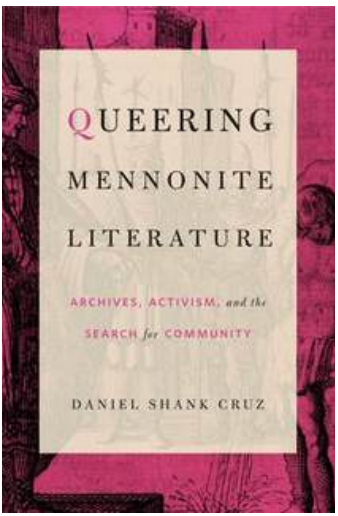
“Later that evening, Archie hosted a Grease Bats Live reading at Bluestockings bookstore, a queer feminist touchstone on the Lower East Side. I had never seen them do this before- they picked audience volunteers to read for each Grease Bats character, based entirely on whoever raised their hands, whoever felt moved to voice each one. [E]veryone sounded exactly as they ought to, and we all laughed together in the dark of the bookstore, the comic projected onto the screen before us all, a giant mirror reflecting us as we are on our best days. It was a hopeful things, to embody the Grease Bats, to feel this close to the best versions of ourselves, of our community. We are all the Grease Bats, and the Grease Bats are all of us.”
-- *Grease Bats* by Archie Bongiovanni, September 2019.



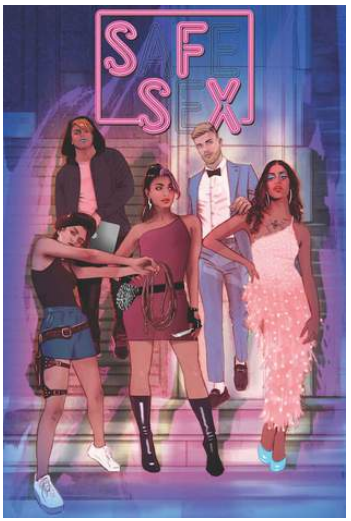
[from the poem “IF YOU ARE OVER CIS PEOPLE, after Morgan Parker”]

“Don’t watch or listen to fox news. Search for Janet Mock’s writing on the internet or the shelves at Bluestockings or Unabridged”
-- *There Are Trans People Here* by H. Melt, November 2021.

“Though no one compared me to John Updike, and the only place where I sold anything like Roth, where people bought my books because they felt they should or because I was someone they were supposed to like, was in Seattle and at Bluestockings bookstore in New York. But my agent tells me that neither of those venues are accurate or representative, and that when I talk like this I sound like someone who doesn't quite understand the publishing game trying to critique it anyway.”
-- *We Had No Rules* by Corinne Manning, May 2020.

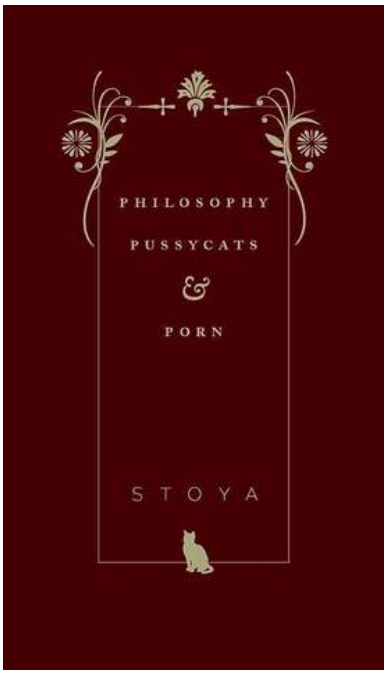


“I did not know what the term ‘bisexual’ meant, and no one in my Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Mennonite milieu was going to teach me. As I say in chapter 2, it was not until I moved to New York City after college that I was able to realize that I was queer. My interactions with texts that I encountered in queer spaces such as the Bluestockings feminist bookstore and the Museum of Sex were essential in helping me come to this realization.”
-- *Queering Mennonite Literature* by Daniel Shank Cruz, August 2020.

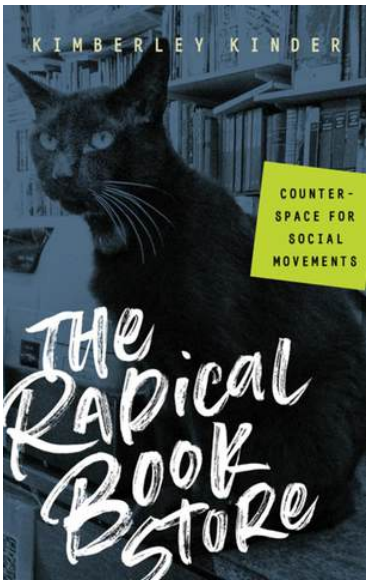


“Last night, we celebrated at Bluestockings: the Lower East Side feminist anarchist bookstore where I once consigned my corny dominatrix zines, where I once shot queer porn after hours, where I met the love of my gayass life. Melissa Gira Grant and I showed off our Sandman tattoos and talked censorship. Lindsay Dye sat on a custom cake and cooed Let's Stay Together. Afterwards she presented me with a framed dollar bill peeled off her magnificently talented ass, stained pink with frosting. [We] toasted the real hustlers of the world, and those of you who throw adoring money at us. Here’s to all of us!”
-- *SFSX* by Tina Horn, July 2020.

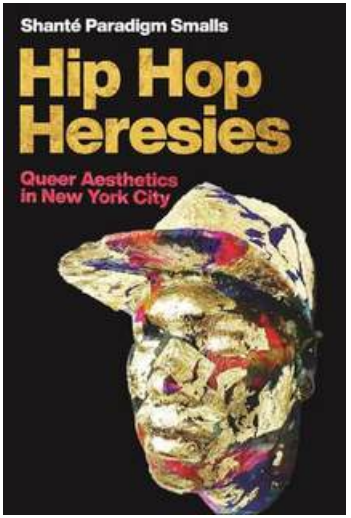
[Images from lindsaydye.com/bluestockings]



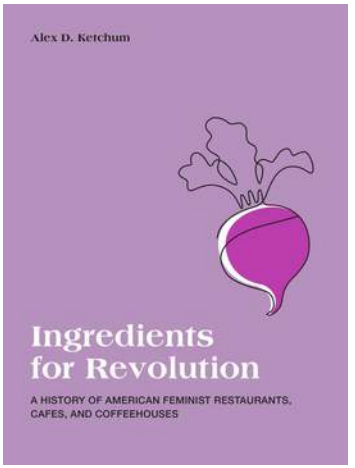
"I went to Bluestockings ... and left with a stack of books. One of the books was Deirdre Kelly's *Ballerina: Sex, Scandal, and Suffering Behind the Symbol of Perfection*. It starts out exactly as salacious as the title implies & ends with a discussion of modern steps towards better workers' rights and healthier job conditions."
-- *Philosophy, Pussycats, & Porn* by Stoya, June 2018.



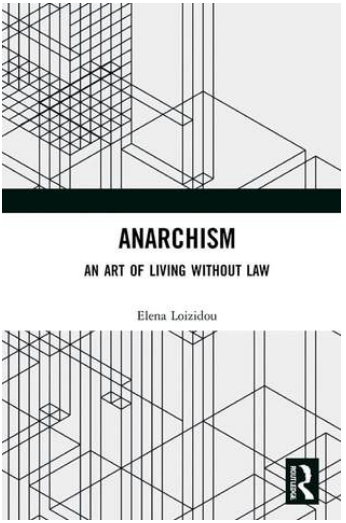
"[A]ctivists with Bluestockings construct a sheltered space where people can find respite in a hostile world. 'I think there's a lot of decompression going on. If [people] are not coming to read the books, they're coming in to just chill out' in a protected environment. 'People need a break from the way our society says it's OK to treat one another. ... So they come in here for a different rule set.'"
-- *The Radical Bookstore* by Kim Kinder, March 2020.



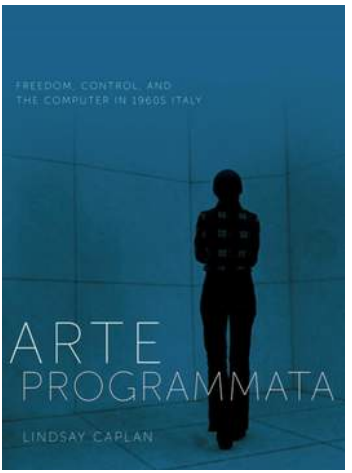
“Dutchboy and I had a very fruitful collaboration. Besides the EP and full-length album that we co-produced and co-wrote, we conducted countless interviews, performed together in NYC and beyond, collaborated with multiple artists, and produced and curated two music festival series... We held the showcases at local businesses like Bluestockings Feminist Bookstore in the Lower East Side of Manhattan.”
-- *Hip Hop Heresies: Queer Aesthetics in New York City* by Shanté Paradigm Smalls, June 2022.



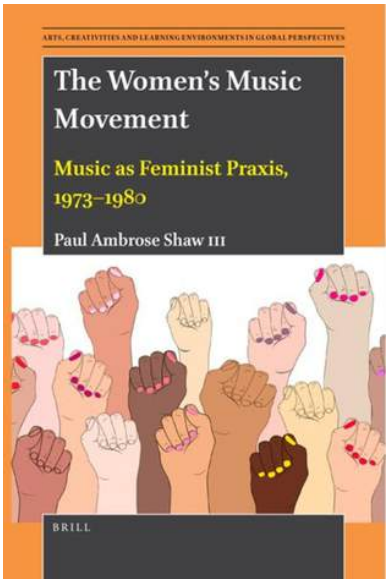
“As Bluestockings’ cooperative members note, even in the past twenty years feminist communities have transformed. [T]here have been shifts in the ways that feminist restaurants, cafés, & coffeehouses have operated since the 1970s. Noting these changes does not seek to erase the revolutionary aspect of feminist restaurants, cafes, and coffeehouses founded in the 1970s and 1980s.”
-- *Ingredients for Revolution* by Alex D. Ketchum, February 2023.



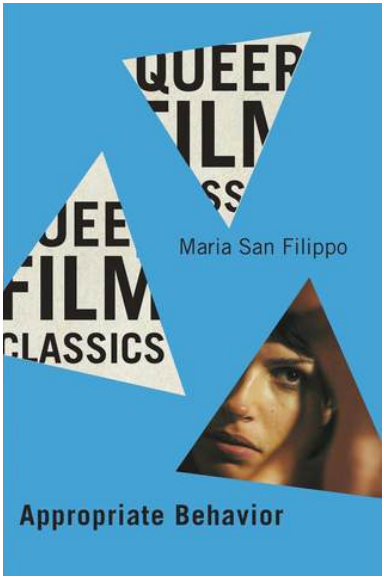
"'Go down to the Bluestockings Cooperative bookshop. You may find something that enables you to think about violence, Emma Goldman perhaps?', said my dear friend Marike van Harskamp when I was on sabbatical in New York, undertaking research on political violence. ... The direction to this gem of a bookshop, the only bookshop in New York that is run by a queer, trans and sex worker community, began the journey to this book. I recall buying three items on my first visit: Emma Goldman's two-volume biography, *Living My Life*, and a pamphlet about a Black Panther project in New Orleans." -- *Anarchism: An Art of Living Without Law* by Elena Loizidou, September 2022.



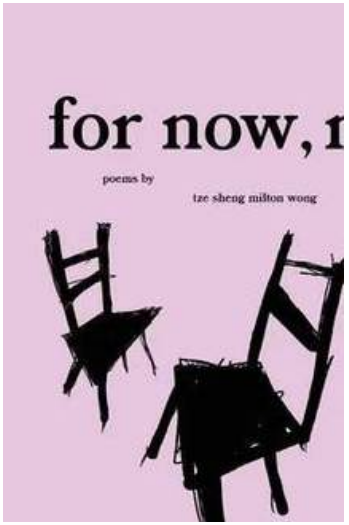
"Stevphen Shukaitis and Jack Bratich organized a class on Autonomist Marxism at Bluestockings bookstore in New York in 2005, which planted seeds of ideas and provided my first encounters with foundational texts that I found myself returning to more than a decade later." -- *Arte Programmata: Freedom, Control, & the Computer in 1960s Italy* by Lindsay Caplan, October 2022.


ARTS, CREATIVITIES AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
The Women's Music Movement
Music as Feminist Praxis, 1973–1980
Paul Ambrose Shaw III
BRILL

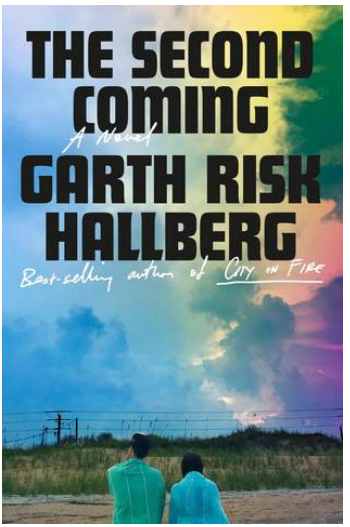
"One winter evening in 2019, a few months prior to beginning my doctoral studies at Union Institute and University, I took a walk in my new neighborhood—the Lower East Side of New York City—and stumbled upon a bookstore called Bluestockings. It was freezing outside, the smell of coffee issuing from within. I entered and immediately realized I was in a special place. Bluestockings was packed; a poetry performance/reading was underway in the corner of the small store. For the next hour, I sat, sipped my coffee, and listened to Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha orient me to a powerful, personal expression of social justice. This was my introduction to feminist theory and a collective, inclusive approach to social change contained within. My Bluestocking experience set me on a course toward a study of feminist theory in tandem with aesthetic, artistic possibilities, and implications for social justice, allyship (as a white heterosexual male), and social change."
-- *The Women's Music Movement: Music as Feminist Praxis, 1973-1980* by Paul Ambrose Shaw III, December 2022.



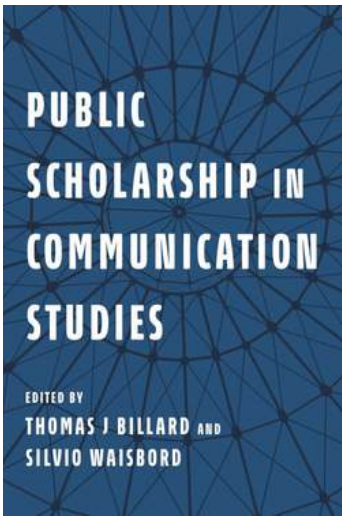
“Shirin feigns queer consciousness in an attempt to win back her ex. ‘You’re not the only one who cares about gay rights,’ she says after crashing Maxine's reading group (“With Justice for Some”), which is focused, its facilitator announces, on ‘the criminal justice system and its bias against the queer community.’ ... Fittingly, this social justice reading group (filmed at community coop Bluestockings) has recently displaced Dyke Knitting Circle, relocated (they’re informed) to Babeland, the feminist sex boutique whose Brooklyn outpost is likely where the strap-on that Maxine unceremoniously returns to Shirin in the film’s opening scene was purchased. Back at the bookstore, their bickering soon drowns out a middle-aged gay man lamenting that ‘consensual sex with my sixteen-year-old boyfriend’ when he was eighteen has permanently branded him a sex offender, extending the film’s irreverent - not to say offensive - play with such ostensibly off-limits topics as gender transitioning, sex crimes, and (as will be discussed below) religious piety.” -- *Queer Film Classics: Appropriate Behavior* by Maria San Filippo, November 2022.



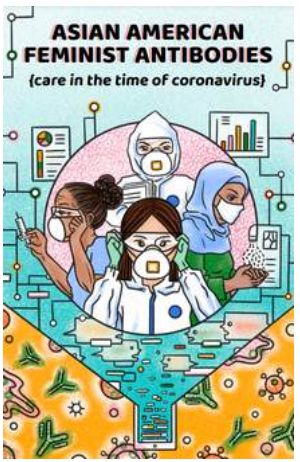
[from the poem “vows,” “written in Singlish, an English-based creole which also draws from languages like Malay, Mandarin, & Hokkien”]
“ok lah, you also know i like you
we go eat rice and lim zui
at Bluestockings how many times
already? some more, their coffee
is jin gankor to drink one leh
but we still go and drink, right?”
-- *for now, new york* by Tze Sheng Milton Wong, December 2022.



“She would carefully slick a sticker that first day onto the pebbled skin of her instrument case: This Machine Kills Fascists. A conversation starter, from the Bluestockings Bookstore on Allen Street. But the school’s cliques had formed long ago, and worse than being singled out, she drifted through the halls between periods like just another ghost.” ... “[B]ut once school started, she found herself more and more using the excuse to hang around the Bluestockings Bookstore after class.
-- *The Second Coming* by Garth Risk Hallberg, May 2024.

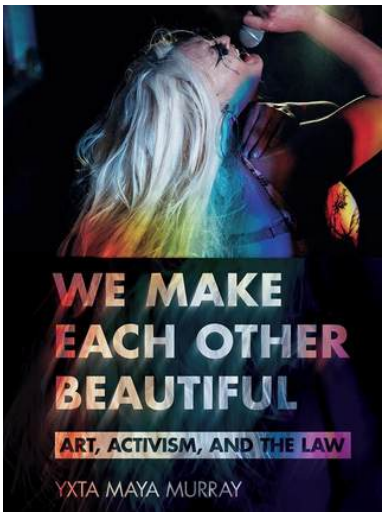


"In March 2020, through AAFC [Asian American Feminist Collective], we created the digital zine *Care in the Time of Coronavirus* with collaborators at Bluestockings, a feminist bookstore cooperative located in Manhattan's Lower East Side. The original impetus behind the zine was to document firsthand accounts of racism and harassment Asian Americans experienced, the racist and xenophobic discourse surrounding the pandemic that were stoking anti-Asian sentiment. We also hoped to draw connections between these experiences and other political frameworks, including abolition, disability justice, and labor and economic justice."
-- *Public Scholarship in Communication Studies* edited by Thomas J Billard and Silvio Waisbord, March 2024.

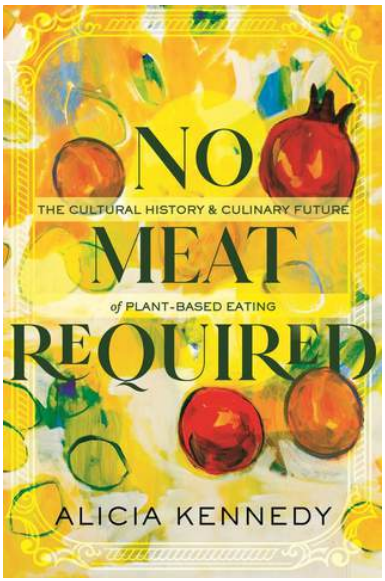


Read the digital zine *Asian American Feminist Antibodies: Care in the Time of Coronavirus* online at asianamfeminism.org/resources or perma.cc/2MSJ-SE63.

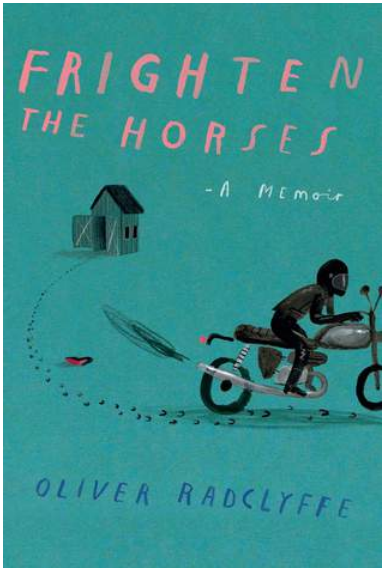
Watch the contributors read and discuss the zine at youtube.com/watch?v=e-h8Tg2q0Ek.



"The queer, trans, and sex-positive bookstore Bluestockings Cooperative initiated one of the first known safer space policies."
-- *We Make Each Other Beautiful: Art, Activism, and the Law* by Yxta Maya Murray, June 2024.



"Zines were integral. People like Shannon O'Neill, now an archivist at the Barnard College [zine] library, would go into the East Village's feminist bookstore Bluestockings to ask if there were new vegan zines. Veganism was in natural alignment with the shop's radical ideology: it was a cooperative that opened in 1999, became worker-owned in 2001, and is still open on the Lower east Side. When I last visited, it had vegan pastries to serve alongside coffee from Zapatista cooperatives in Mexico. It was through the store's zine selection that O'Neill learned how to cook."
-- *No Meat Required* by Alicia Kennedy, June 2024.



“Unable to picture life as a suburban lesbian, I decided it might be prudent to take my first steps in New York. I needed to find somewhere in the city where gay people went, somewhere safe and anonymous where I could sit invisibly in a corner and soak up the atmosphere. Somewhere like the Bluestockings bookstore. ... A girl holding an armful of books was standing in front of a section labeled Queer, trying to stuff the books back onto an already crammed shelf. She had a pixie face and short brown hair tucked under a beanie, combat pants and a baggy T-shirt. She didn’t look remotely threatening. ... I bit my lip and motioned to the sign above the bookcase, my curiosity overcoming my embarrassment. ‘Why is this section called Queer? I thought ’queer’ was pejorative’ ‘We reclaimed it,’ she said amiably. ‘Now it covers everything that isn’t straight or cisgender.’ ‘Sis-what?’ ‘Cisgender. Identifying with the gender you were assigned at birth.’ ‘Oh, okay.’ Perhaps if I could get a better grasp on all this I’d be able to figure out why I mostly didn’t feel like anything at all, why my identity still felt like an empty void...”

-- *Frighten the Horses: A Memoir* by Oliver Radclyffe, September 2024.